

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2001 I had an urgent family medical issue. As a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. Please excuse my absence from this vote. If I were present, I would have voted "yea" on each vote.

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, as a former Peace Corps volunteer, I am pleased to rise to speak in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

When President John F. Kennedy signed the Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, the response to this bold initiative was both swift and enthusiastic. Less than six months later, the first volunteers had accepted the challenge and left for their two year assignments overseas.

In 1966 and 1967, I myself served as a volunteer in Somalia. It was a meaningful experience for me, and it allowed me to see that Peace Corps volunteers are the best grassroots ambassadors the United States can have. The Peace Corps provides direct aid to ordinary people, and it is probably one of the most cost-effective forms of foreign aid that there is.

I am also pleased to say that the state of Wisconsin leads the Peace Corps' legacy of service. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is the nation's top producer of volunteers, with other 2,300 graduates having joined the Peace Corps and bringing their skills and talents to dozens of countries.

Now, as we observe the Peace Corps' 40th anniversary, it continues to capture the imagination of the American people. It has emerged as an international model of citizen service and of practical, grassroots assistance to people in developing countries.

Additionally, Peace Corps volunteers also make a difference at home by continuing their community service, and strengthening Americans' appreciation of other cultures. By visiting classrooms, working with community groups, and speaking with friends and family members, Peace Corps volunteers are helping others learn more about the world in which we live, and helping to build a legacy of service for the next generation.

Today's 7000 volunteers are somewhat different than the volunteers of the early years. The average age has risen from 22 to 28, the percentage of women has increased from 35 to 60, the number of volunteers with graduate degrees is growing.

But having said that, I believe today's volunteers still share a characteristic with their predecessors that is a cornerstone of Peace Corps service—a commitment to the spirit of volunteerism and service that President Kennedy first envisioned 40 years ago.

I salute the Peace Corps and the thousands of volunteers who have served, and I look forward to many more years for this organization which has truly made a difference around the world.

## A TRIBUTE TO JOE FRANCIS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Joseph S. Francis, a man named by the San Diego Business Journal as "San Diego's Top Labor Leader". On March 2, 2001, Joe is retiring from the position of Executive Director of Labor's Community Service Agency, an agency he founded in 1985.

Labor's Community Service Agency is a non-profit organization, committed to serving workers, their families and the larger community. It develops partnerships with government, business, and labor—so these sectors can co-operate in making our city a better place to work and live. As Executive Director of labor's Community Service Agency, Joe has developed many programs that address the needs of workers in San Diego.

He is also currently the editor of the Messenger, Vice President of Job Training Associates, Board Member of the San Diego Carrier Museum, and a member of the San Diego County Board of Economic Advisors. His past positions include Executive Secretary of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council and Director of the Committee on Political Education (COPE). Joe was honored with a Distinguished Service Award by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council in 1996.

Raised in New Bedford, MA, Joe moved to San Diego in 1953. He first worked at Convair, followed by the San Diego Fire Department where he was involved in the local Firefighters Union. He was elected director of the Union Board in 1965—and later served as Secretary and then President of Local 145. In 1980, he was elected Executive-Director of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council with an overwhelming two-thirds of the vote.

Although organizing workers is his primary focus, Joe has also contributed to the community through his service on the Boards of the following organizations: United Way, the San Diego Technology Council, the Salvation Army, the Regional Employment Training Consortium, and as President of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation.

On the occasion of Joe's retirement from service as Executive Director of Labor's Community Service Agency, I want to sincerely thank him for his far-reaching vision, his relentless passion, and his tireless service to the working men and women in San Diego and throughout the nation.

Joe, you serve as a model of dedication and energy which we will follow as we strive to carry on the work that you have begun.

## CASARELLA RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS IN EDUCATION

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joe Casarella, who has retired after 37 years in education, culminating in four years as superintendent of the Wyoming Area School District in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Raised in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Joe worked and lived in New York, then in Berwick, Pennsylvania, finally returning home to lead the Wyoming Area schools. He has a long and distinguished career that includes service as a teacher, elementary school principal, junior high school principal, curriculum director, director of special education and federal funds, and as an assistant superintendent.

Mr. Speaker, it is a tribute to just how well liked Joe is at Wyoming Area and the job he has done that when he submitted a letter of resignation last year, students and teachers alike urged him to stay. The one word heard again and again from those who know him is "gentleman."

His accomplishments include successful staff contract negotiations and increasing access to technology for students and teachers, but his most prized accomplishment is the district's community program. In this initiative, representatives from Luzerne County Human Resources and Catholic Social Services work with administrators, teachers and students to identify at-risk students and families and connect them with the social services they need to help them succeed. About 30 families have been helped.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call Joe Casarella's long service to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

## IN RECOGNITION OF FELIPE REINOSO, HONOREE OF NOSOTROS MAGAZINE'S 33RD ANNIVERSARY GALA AWARD BANQUET

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Felipe Reinoso, who will be honored at the 33rd Anniversary Gala Award Banquet of Nosotros Magazine on Saturday, February 21, 2001. The Banquet is an annual event that honors distinguished Hispanic leaders for their important contributions to society. This is an opportune time for today's Hispanic leaders to reflect on the economic, political, and cultural contributions that Hispanics have made to American society.

In 1984, Felipe Reinoso received his Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Education from Sacred Heart University and his Master's Degree in Bilingual Special Education from Fairfield University in 1987. Before co-founding the Bridge Academy High School in 1998, where he was Principal, he taught bilingual Social